Dear Friend:

The United States Embassy is pleased to share this "Civil Society" Article Alert with you. We trust that you will it useful and informative. If you desire additional information about this topic or any other topic involving American government policy, culture or social issues, please do not hesitate to contact sakalaw@state.gov. We welcome your feedback.

Article Alert compliments of the United States Embassy Lusaka

A compilation of article abstracts from U.S. news media and other sources

Theme: Civil Society

1. President Obama's remarks at a Civil Society Roundtable , New York – Sept 23, 2013

Human progress has always been propelled at some level by what happens in civil society -- citizens coming together to insist that a better life is possible, pushing their leaders to protect the rights and the dignities of all people.…Civil society led the fight to end apartheid in South Africa. It led the fight to bring freedom to Eastern Europe. It helped to heal places divided by conflict, whether in Cambodia or Colombia. Here, in the United States, civil society has been the catalyst for virtually every major advance that we've made.

http://tinyurl.com/o6yjwbr

2. International Partnership Defends Civil Society Worldwide

The U.S. joined 23 other governments in issuing a joint multinational statement September 23 affirming the important role that civil society organizations play in sustaining a vital nation and denouncing the "ongoing assault" that is challenging the existence of these groups in many countries. The nations issued the statement as they participated in the Civil Society Roundtable held on the sidelines of the opening session of the U.N. General Assembly in New York attended by President Obama.

http://tinyurl.com/puj5qql

3. White House Fact Sheet on U.S. Support for Civil Society

To preserve the space for civil society to operate, the U.S. funds programs that track and monitor legislation that restricts the work of civil society in more than 40 countries, and is making a new commitment of $3.5 million to expand and sustain this work.

http://tinyurl.com/lpc8crf

4. Fact Sheet: Regulation of NGOs in the United States

The U.S. firmly believes that a robust civil society—independent of state control or government involvement—is necessary for democracy to thrive. Accordingly, U.S. regulations that impact civil society organizations are designed to facilitate and support—not to discourage—the formation of non-governmental organizations. U.S. regulations are designed specifically to avoid making judgments about the value or work of any given NGO.

http://tinyurl.com/qxaqzw8

5. U.S. Department's Guiding Principles on NGOs

http://tinyurl.com/nfeolnx

6. The NGO Handbook
Have you ever seen a problem and wanted to do something about it? Of course you have. The schools, police, government welfare offices, churches and families aren't handling it. Others share your concerns and want to do something. That's why you would start a nongovernmental organization, or NGO. This handbook will guide you through the steps of starting and operating an NGO.

http://tinyurl.com/n6t87kr

7. USAID Challenges Innovators to Help Boost Citizen Engagement

Through partnership with several international organizations, the U.S. Agency for International Development hopes its new initiative, "Making All Voices Count: A Grand Challenge for Development," deepens the impact of existing innovations and helps harness new technologies to enable citizen engagement and government responsiveness.

http://tinyurl.com/ozfpx6x

Quotable Quote:

"These three essential elements of a free nation -- representative government, a well-functioning market, and civil society -- work like three legs of a stool. They lift and support nations as they reach for higher standards of progress and prosperity. Civil society undergirds both democratic governance and broad-based prosperity." -- **Former Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton.**